



Indiana Crop & Weather Report

INDIANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PURDUE UNIVERSITY
1148 AGAD BLDG, ROOM 223
WEST LAFAYETTE IN 47907-1148
Phone (765)494-8371
Phone (800)363-0469
FAX (765)494-4315
FAX (800)363-0475

Released: Monday, 3PM

May 1, 2000

Vol. 50, #4

West Lafayette, IN 47907

CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 30

Field activities were slow early in the period, but corn and soybean planting was in full swing by mid-week in most areas of the State, according to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Corn planting is 10 days ahead of average and only 2 days behind the record pace established in 1988. Soybean planting is more than a week ahead of average.

CORN AND SOYBEANS

Thirty-five percent of the **corn** acreage is planted compared with 9 percent last year and 14 percent for the 5-year average. By area, corn planting is 30 percent complete in the north, 41 percent complete in the central and 31 percent complete in the south. Ten percent of the **soybean** acreage is planted compared with 3 percent last year and 4 percent for the average. Farmers continued to apply fertilizer and nitrogen, prepare soils and spread chemicals.

WINTER WHEAT

Ninety-eight percent of the **winter wheat** acreage is **jointed**, compared with 87 percent last year and 71 percent for the 5-year average. Wheat condition remained virtually unchanged from a week earlier. Winter wheat **condition** is rated 75 percent good to excellent, compared with 85 percent at this time a year ago.

OTHER CROPS AND LIVESTOCK

Availability of hay and roughage supplies was rated 5 percent surplus, 73 percent adequate 18 percent short and 4 percent very short. **Pasture condition** was rated 8 percent excellent, 46 percent good, 32 percent fair, 10 percent poor and 4 percent very poor. Livestock are in mostly good condition. Calving remains active.

DAYS SUITABLE and SOIL MOISTURE

For the week ending Friday, 4.3 days were rated **suitable for fieldwork**. **Topsoil moisture** was rated 6 percent very short, 18 percent short, 67 percent adequate and 9 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** was rated 16 percent very short, 39 percent short, 41 percent adequate and 4 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
Percent				
Corn Planted	35	11	9	14
Soybeans Planted	10	2	3	4
Winter Wheat Jointed	98	80	87	71
Winter Wheat Headed	13	0	2	3

CROP CONDITION

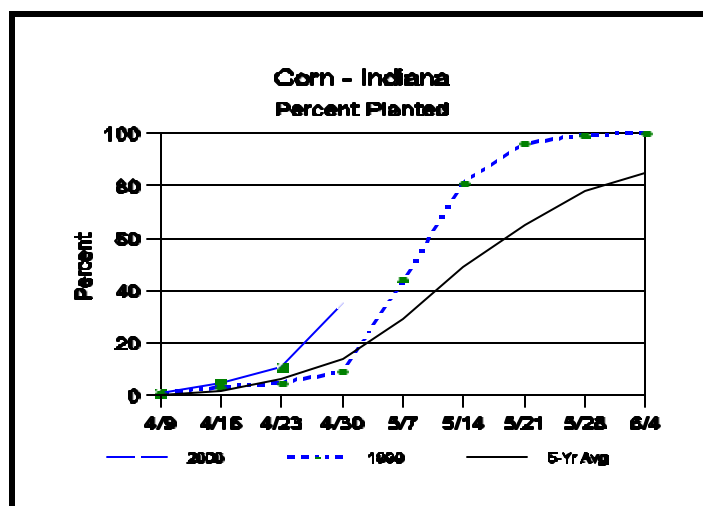
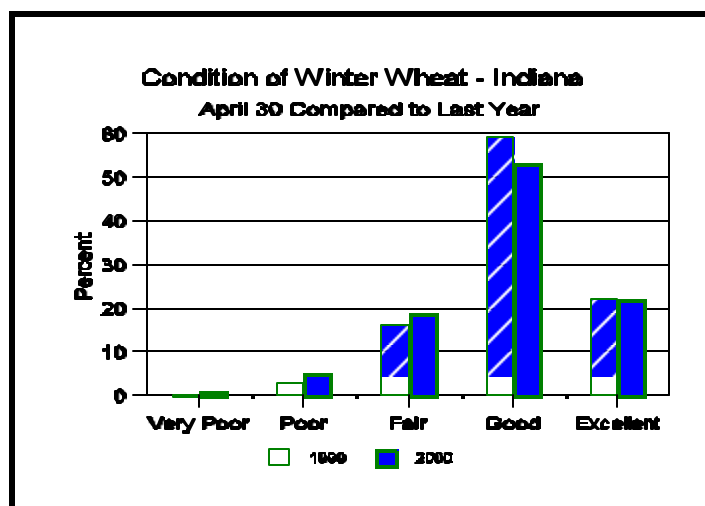
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Winter Wheat 4/30	1	5	19	53	22
Winter Wheat 4/23	1	4	20	54	21
Winter Wheat 1999	0	2	13	62	23
Pasture	4	10	32	46	8

SOIL MOISTURE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Percent			
Topsoil			
Very Short	6	3	0
Short	18	13	1
Adequate	67	66	49
Surplus	9	18	50
Subsoil			
Very Short	16	15	0
Short	39	39	5
Adequate	41	43	63
Surplus	4	3	32

--Ralph W. Gann, State Statistician
--Bud Bever, Agricultural Statistician
E-Mail Address: nass-in@nass.usda.gov
<http://info.aes.purdue.edu/agstat/nass.html>

Crop Progress



Planning for the 2000 Soybean Crop

T Managing the 2000 Soybean Crop With Weather in Mind

Much of the coffee shop talk these days revolves around the potential impact of La Nina on the 2000 Indiana soybean crop. Since the first of the year, several individuals have contacted me regarding modifications in their plans for the 2000 soybean crop based on bad weather fears. From what I have heard and read, there is less than unanimous agreement on La Nina's impact on the 2000 growing season. The one fact that is certain today is the unusually dry soil conditions that exist across northern and central Indiana for this time of year. Will these conditions continue? Let's hope that they don't. The National Weather Service issued a statement on Monday March 13 that no relief is insight at the present time. Normally, much of our subsoil recharge occurs with the March and April rains.

The 2000 growing season could be very similar to normal, or it could vary significantly from normal. Therefore, to try to plan for a growing season quite different from normal is a major gamble. We must remember that a normal growing season is nothing more than the average of all growing seasons of all the years for which weather data is available. Each growing season could, and in most cases does, vary from normal. Our big concern today is to what extent will it vary from normal in 2000.

In my opinion, since we do not have a clear view of the 2000 weather pattern, we should treat this year as any other normal year. Furthermore, I suggest that the soybean production system adopted for this year

be one designed to utilize best management practices to maximize an economic yield of the crop. I hear three things being discussed as possible areas where farmers may attempt to make modifications in their production system. These include changing maturity group, planting date, and seeding rate.

The variety selected should be a full season variety for your geographic area with good disease resistance and yielding ability. An attempt to change to an earlier or later maturing variety could spell disaster. An early maturing variety does not have the ability to fully compensate for late July and August rains while a full season variety can respond nicely to these late rains. The 1997 growing season is a good reminder of the risk of using early season varieties. In many instances, the early maturing varieties had greatly reduced yields because they had ceased flowering when the late August 1997 rains came and could not compensate. The 1999 growing season is a good illustration of the impact of a drier than normal July, August, and September on the performance of varieties that mature later than full season varieties. In general, the later maturing varieties yielded less than full season varieties in 1999. If you can guess correctly on the timing of a dry period during the growing season, then you could change the maturity group to your advantage.

The period between May 5 and May 20 is the ideal window to plant soybeans most years in Indiana. Planting earlier than April 25 or later than June 5 usually results in a significant yield reduction. We
(Continued on Page 4.)

Weather Data

Week ending Sunday April 30, 2000

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg	April 1, 2000 thru				
							4 in	April 30, 2000				
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Soil Temp	Precipitation		GDD Base 50°F		
Northwest (1)												
Valparaiso_Ag	69	35	51	-4	0.11	1		4.16	+0.19	12	44	-44
Wanatah	70	32	49	-4	0.10	1	59	3.87	+0.06	10	43	-25
Wheatfield	72	32	51	-3	0.12	1		3.08	-0.70	11	54	-19
Winamac	69	33	51	-4	0.02	1	58	2.62	-1.07	7	55	-39
North Central (2)												
Logansport	71	35	53	-2	0.06	1		1.77	-1.71	13	73	-17
Plymouth	68	33	50	-5	0.15	1		4.39	+0.51	11	50	-53
South_Bend	69	31	50	-5	0.09	1		3.71	-0.10	15	52	-26
Young_America	72	36	54	-1	0.00	0		1.20	-2.28	9	102	+12
Northeast (3)												
Bluffton	70	35	53	-2	0.04	1	50	2.39	-1.31	9	76	-21
Fort_Wayne	71	33	52	-2	0.02	1		2.09	-1.29	9	75	-9
West Central (4)												
Crawfordsville	71	31	51	-6	0.04	1	55	1.87	-2.25	11	61	-69
Perrysville	71	34	53	-3	0.12	1	58	2.11	-1.77	6	85	-29
Terre_Haute_Ag	72	37	56	-2	0.30	2	59	3.18	-0.72	10	118	-22
W_Lafayette_6NW	71	31	53	-3	0.00	0	57	1.06	-2.67	8	92	-3
Central (5)												
Castleton	70	36	54	-3	0.05	1		3.41	-0.37	13	93	-26
Greenfield	70	36	54	-3	0.02	1		4.10	+0.06	14	98	-9
Greensburg	70	37	54	-3	0.02	1		4.80	+0.72	12	100	-21
Indianapolis_AP	70	39	55	-2	0.07	1		3.80	+0.10	13	125	-5
Indianapolis_SE	69	35	53	-3	0.00	0		4.05	+0.27	9	91	-28
Tipton_Ag	70	33	52	-3	0.00	0	56	1.12	-2.78	10	66	-10
East Central (6)												
Farmland	71	30	52	-3	0.00	0	51	4.45	+0.87	13	68	-3
New_Castle	68	34	50	-4	0.00	0		3.77	-0.32	14	47	-28
Southwest (7)												
Dubois_Ag	71	36	55	-3	0.22	3	59	3.55	-0.64	14	146	-20
Evansville	72	38	56	-5	0.58	3		2.36	-1.67	9	179	-36
Freelandville	72	41	55	-3	0.21	1		4.19	+0.30	8	119	-37
Shoals	73	34	54	-4	0.17	3		2.96	-1.15	12	106	-48
Vincennes_5NE	74	38	55	-3	0.32	2	56	2.72	-1.17	11	120	-36
South Central (8)												
Bloomington	72	35	54	-4	0.00	0		3.87	-0.05	9	100	-54
Tell_City	71	39	55	-5	0.26	2		2.69	-2.11	9	154	-38
Southeast (9)												
Scottsburg	72	35	54	-5	0.16	1		4.42	+0.25	10	120	-37

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

GDD = Growing Degree Days.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

Copyright 2000: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

The above weather information is provided by AWIS, Inc.

For detailed ag weather forecasts and data visit the AWIS home page at
www.awis.com or call toll free at 1-888-798-9955.

Planning for the 2000 Soybean Crop (continued)

need to remember that full season varieties planted on or before May 20 will usually begin flowering on approximately the same day whether planted in April or May. The idea that planting early will result in significantly earlier reproductive development of the soybean plant is false.

When the time arrives for planting and the soil is unusually dry, I would still recommend that you go ahead and plant and wait for the rain. This approach is superior to waiting for rain, and then waiting even longer for the soil to dry before soybeans can be planted.

Seeding rate should not be altered in anticipations of weather events. A population of 165,000 plants per acre in drilled soybeans is considered a perfect stand and would require a seeding rate of 200,000 seeds per acre. With a 30 inch row spacing, a perfect stand would be 105,000 plants per acre with a seeding rate of 130,000 seeds per acre. A 15 inch row spacing will require a seeding rate of 165,000 seeds per acre to give a perfect stand of 130,000 plants per acre.

Much of the 2000 soybean seed supply was produced in areas with rainfall deficits in 1999 and therefore has a higher seed count per pound than normal. It will pay to calibrate drills and planters with the seed that you will be planting this year, and to check the calibration as you move from one seed lot to the next. Remember that over seeding by 5 pounds per acre on 100 acres is equal to 10 units of soybean seed. Proper calibration and seeding rates can result in input costs savings.

The bottom line is that with the forecast information available today, we should plan for a near normal growing season and develop our production system accordingly.

Two other points including, "What are the costs and savings of continuous soybean?", and "How about the use of bin-run soybean seed in 2000?" are not included in this publication because of space. However, they are included in the crop weather report which is published on our web site. Our web site is listed on the front of this publication.

—Ellsworth P. Christmas, Purdue University

The INDIANA CROP WEATHER REPORT (USPS 675-770), (ISSN 0442-817X) is issued weekly April through November by the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service, Purdue University, 1148 AgAd Bldg, Rm 223, West Lafayette IN 47907-1148. Second Class postage paid at Lafayette IN. For information on subscribing, send request to above address. POSTMASTER: Send address change to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service, Purdue University, 1148 AgAd Bldg, Rm 223, West Lafayette IN 47907-1148.
